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proposed on the pretence of protecting the Kumaramperur North Reserve. This new proposal covered localities inhabited for a long time and cultivated along with the registered holdings. The estates of Chattar and Kurungali were on both sides of it and a public road from Mylaprayil to Chattar traversed it. The Member expressed his regret at the policy of reserving forests containing cultivated and inhabited localities and passing through registered holdings and prayed that a clear demarcation of the boundaries should be made of the Reserves that now extended from Enathimangalam to Changanacherry border, excluding Jenmies' *cherikals*, registered holdings and estates.

Dewan's reply.—I shall enquire into this matter.

16. The difficulties experienced by the people generally on account of the Southern Division Forest Officer's administration of the Forest Rules in the following respects.

(1) The refusal of the department to issue free passss for the removal of fuel from private lands. (2) The calculation as one ton of a cart load of fuel from the Sirkar lands, instead of as half a ton as fixed by the Government. (3) The Forest officers insist on the production of a free pass for the removal of manure leaves from private lands and refuse to grant the same if asked for. (4) The department refuse to allow ryots to cut and remove bamboos from the Sirkar lands on payment of seigniorage. (5) It is a hardship that, when timber is auctioned at the depots, it is given only to merchants and not to the ryots directly.

Mr. T. Kumara Pillai (Member, Kalkulam taluk) said that the procedure of the Government in levying a fee for a permit to collect fuel from the forest areas and in issuing a free pass for fuel taken from private lands was a good one. Now difficulties are experienced in getting a free pass, which was not the case when Mr. A. P. Smith was the Divisional Officer. The first difficulty was that no reply would be sent to an applicant who applied for a free pass. After repeated applications, the matter would be referred to the Forest Ranger, who would take his own time to inspect the place whence the fuel had to be removed. After satisfying himself, he would direct the applicant to collect the firewood and then apply to him. Accordingly, he would have to be again approached, but it took him two or three months to issue a pass. By this time the firewood would be stolen. The granting of free passes seemed to be repugnant to the present Divisional Forest Officer. It was a hardship to any one to have to purchase firewood when it was available in ones' own compound. It seemed that the Divisional Officer was labouring under a mistaken notion that, if a free pass was granted, people would steal firewood from the neighbouring forests. The people must be enabled to get firewood without hardship. It was intolerable that the produce of their own compounds could not be enjoyed by them.

(2) Another hardship, the Member said, was the calculation of one cartload of firewood as one ton by the Forest people, while the Government fixed one ton as two cartloads.

(3) Another hardship was in the matter of obtaining manure leaves. Passes had to be obtained even as regards leaves taken from registered lands. When applications were made for passes, they were delayed greatly. In his own case, the Member said, he got a reply only after 62 days. The need for the manure would be over by the time the reply was received.

(4) Another difficulty was in the matter of getting bamboos. Bamboos are not allowed to be removed from the

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forests. It was at a great loss and with trouble that they got bamboos from Nagercoil and other depots for which they had to pay 175 fs. for 100 bamboos and Rs. 3 cart hire. On the other hand, to remove them from the forests, they had to incur only Rs. 4 for seigniorage, Rs. 2 charges for cutting and Rs. 2 cart hire for 100 bamboos.

(5) Another hardship was in the matter of obtaining timber. As matters now stood, timber is not sold to suit the convenience of the people. They are auctioned only in big lots. Merchants purchased them in auction and carried them away. People had to buy them from the merchants at a very high rate.

The difficulties experienced in obtaining passes for the removal of green manure and firewood from the forests

Mr. K. A. Aiyamperumal Pillai (Member, Tovala taluk) represented that the taluk was surrounded by forests on all sides, that on account of the extension of Reserved Forests as far as the limits of registered holdings, people were put to great difficulties in the matter of (1) grazing their cattle and (2) getting firewood and manure leaves. The levying of license fees for grazing cattle was a source of great trouble to the adjoining cultivators, who stabled their cattle in sheds near the forest. They had no *poramboke* lands to graze their cattle on and there was no pathway through which the cattle might be taken to be grazed elsewhere. The levy of license fees for grazing their sheep in the forests, in common with those of foreigners, should be discontinued, as they would not destroy the forest produce. As regards the removal of firewood, he said that the people were put to great difficulty in not being allowed to gather withered twigs and the branches of reserved and unreserved trees and that they must be allowed to remove them. He further said that, in the matter of obtaining manure leaves from the forests, people were forbidden to gather the leaves of many of the trees, which were particularly useful for agriculture, and he prayed that, if manure leaves could not be had from the said trees, the Government should order the planting in the forests, of the ordinary manure trees, and the people should be permitted to remove the leaves for manuring purposes.

Dewan's reply.—The Conservator of Forests will be asked to report regarding the allegations made by the two Members in regard to the working of the Forest Rules in the Southern Division.

17. The concession granted to the Thovala ryots for the removal of green manure from Velimala, may be extended to the Agastiswaram taluk

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk). When the Member rose up to make his representation, the Dewan told him that the concession was granted to the Thovala taluk as an experiment for two years and asked him whether it was not enough to extend the privilege to other places after seeing its working for two years in that taluk. The Member consented to the same.

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